

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04 A-01

OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 IO-13 DRC-01 /172 W

----- 032805

R 071155Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7073

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2007

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS SU

SUBJ: ANTI-NIMEIRI DEVELOPMENTS: STATUS REPORT VII

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. NIMEIRI RETURNS TO KHARTOUM. UNIONS SPLIT;
GENERAL STRIKE ONLY PARTIAL. SOME TRAINS IN OPERATION. SOUTHERN
LEADERS COUNSEL CALM. NIMEIRI SPEECH EXPECTED THIS WEEKEND.
END SUMMARY.

2. NIMEIRI RETURN. NIMEIRI RETURNED UNANNOUNCED EARLY THIS
MORNING (1:30 AM) AND WAS MET BY KEY OFFICIALS. ABU GASSIM
NOT PRESENT. ARRIVAL SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED OVER RADIO.

3. STRIKES. GENERAL STRIKE ONLY PARTIALLY EFFECTIVE. GOS HAS
ANNOUNCED NUMBER OF WORK AREAS (MECHANICAL TRANSPORT AND
GOS PRINTING PRESS OFFICES) AS REJECTING STRIKE, BUT EMB UNDER-
STANDS STRIKE CALLS WERE ABOUT 50 PERCENT EFFECTIVE. PUBLIC UTILITY
WORKERS STILL ON THE JOB (WITH FOUR TRUCKLOADS OF PARATROOPERS
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WAITING OUTSIDE). RAILROAD SITUATION IS CONFUSING (WHICH IS

ACCORDINGLY IN GOS FAVOR). ONE TRAIN WAS OBSERVED ARRIVING IN KHARTOUM THIS MORNING AND ANOTHER READY DEPART. ACCORDING PRESS GOS HAS USED HELICOPTERS TO CARRY RAILROAD ENGINEERS TO SOME STALLED TRAINS--UNCLEAR EXTENT TO WHICH COERCION APPLIED. ORGANIZATION OF SUDAN RAILWAY UNION IS CHAOTIC FOLLOWING ARREST ITS PRESIDENT (REFTEL) AND NOW HAS TWO "ACTING PRESIDENTS"--ONE GOS-SUPPORTED AND OTHER OPPOSITIONIST--ONE STATING STRIKE IS CANCELLED AND OTHER CALLING FOR CONTINUATION UNTIL DEMANDS FULFILLED. LATTER ALSO URGES WORKERS IGNORE "...RUMORS FROM OTHER SUDAN RAILWAY UNION SOURCES". SEVERAL KEY RAILWAY UNION BRANCHES--SENIOR ENGINEERS AND SIGNALMEN/STATIONMASTERS--ANNOUNCED AS RETURNING TO WORK. ATBARA WORKSHOPS REMAIN CLOSED. IF THAT SITUATION ACCURATE AND PERSISTS, MINIMAL RAIL ACTIVITY CAN CONTINUE, BUT WITHOUT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, TRACK REPAIR OR OTHER SERVICES.

4.SOUTHERN STATEMENTS. SILENCE FROM SOUTH (DUE TO COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS) CLARIFIED SEPT 7 WITH PUBLICATION HANDCARRIED RESOLUTION OF PROVISIONAL HIGH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (PHEC), STATEMENTS BY REG VICEPRES ABEL ALIER, AND REPORTS OF SOUTHERN PRO-NIMEIRI RALLIES. PHEC PREDICTABLY LAUDS NIMEIRI FOR SOUTHER PEACE AND RECONCILIATION. ABEL ALIER STATEMENTS NOTABLE NOT FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF NIMEIRI, BUT FOR CALLS OF SOUTHER "SELF-RESTRAINT," "AVOIDANCE OF VIOLENCE," AND "HANDLING OF CONSPIRATORS BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES". HE ALSO ADVISED POLICEMEN TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN "...MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD AND MUSLIMS". EMB HAS RECEIVED ON-SCENE REPORT BY UN REPS RESIDENT IN SOUTH WHO DESCRIBE SOUTHERNERS AS BEING "ON EDGE" AND COLLECTING WEAPONS. UN REPS FEAR SPARK COULD SET OFF NORTHERN-SOUTHERN CLASHES (GOS ARMY UNITS AND EX-ANYANYA UNITS STILL STATIONED ADJACENT EACH OTHER THROUGHOUT MUCH OF SOUTH).

5. OTHER EVENTS. GOS HAS ISSUED SERIES IMPLEMENTING DECREES SUSPENDING ELEMENTS OF CONSTITUTION AND ACTIVATING 1939 DEFENSE OF THE SUDAN ACT. REGULATIONS FORBID ASSEMBLY OR DEMONSTRATION,"MOBILIZE" PUBLIC UTILITIES, RESTRICT SPEECH AND MOVEMENT, AND AUTHORIZE SEARCH AND ENTRY, INDEFINITE DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE, HOUSE ARRESTS, CURFEWS, CONFIDENTIAL

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CLOSURE, SEIZURE OF GOODS IF HOARDED BY SELLERS, ETC. WE UNDERSTAND SEPT 1 DEMONSTRATION IN SHENDI CONSISTED OF ABOUT 1500 STUDENTS AND POLICE PRESENCE MINIMAL. NEVERTHELESS, IT FAILED GENERAL PUBLIC SUPPORT. SCHEDULED (SEPT 9-12) AND WELL-PUBLICIZED STATE VISIT BY EMIR OF KUWAIT HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

6. STATUS REPORTS. THIS AND SUCCEEDING STATUS REPORTS WILL BE NUMBERED. PREVIOUS REPORTS ARE DESIGNATED AS FOLLOW:

KHARTOUM 1940-(I); 1950-(II); 1956-(III); 1966-(IV); 1978-(V);
1990-VI).

7. COMMENT:

A. GOS EFFORT AT SPLITTING UNION ORGANIZATION AND INTI-MIDATING UNION MEMBERSHIP HAVING SOME EFFECT. AS INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, RESULTS TOMORROW (SATURDAY) WILL BE BETTER GAUGE OF STRIKE SUCCESS OR FAILURE THAN TODAY.

B. ASIDE FROM OTHER CONCERNS, GOS MUST ENSURE SOUTHERN LID IS KEPT CLOSED. EXCESSIVE PRO-NIMEIRI ACTIONS IN SOUTH RESULTING IN VIOLENCE COULD AROUSE VOLATION NORTHERN-SOUTHERN ANIMOSITIES IN KHARTOUM AND ELSEWHERE. IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTERNAL ELEMENTS (EXILED SUDANESE AND LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN ELEMENTS) WHO OPPOSE SOUTHERN-SETTLEMENT AS A DILUTION OF ISLAM AND SUDAN'S ARABISM.

C. AS NOTED KHARTOUM 1991 (ASSESSMENT), NIMEIRI NOW HAS BRIEF GRACE PERIOD TO REVIEW OPTIONS AND MAKE DECISION. WE ANTICIPATE RADIO/TV SPEECH SOMETIME THIS WEEKEND.
FRITTS

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